

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing system for distributing a content to another device via a network, comprising:

first receiving ~~means-unit~~ for receiving from said another device, via said network, application information that identifies an application via which said content can be accessed, content identifying information and format identifying information of said content from said other device via said network;

reading ~~means-unit~~ for reading said content based on said content identifying information included in said application information when said application information of said content is received by said first receiving ~~meansunit~~;

format converting ~~means-unit~~ for converting said content read by said reading ~~means unit~~ into data in a predetermined format based on said format identifying information included in said application information; and

distributing ~~means-unit~~ for distributing ~~said content which is converted into the data in the predetermined format by~~ from said format converting ~~meansunit~~, to said device via said network.

2. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

second receiving ~~means-unit~~ for receiving transaction information of said content; and

authenticating ~~means-unit~~ for authenticating said transaction information when the transaction information of said content is received by said second receiving ~~means unit~~,

wherein said reading ~~means-unit~~ reads out said content based on a result authenticated by said authenticating ~~means unit~~.

3. (Original) A system according to Claim 2, wherein said transaction information includes a credit card number or an account number.

4. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein said format identifying information includes information which designates an encoding system and/or encoding rate of said content.

5. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

calculating ~~means-unit~~ for calculating a use charge for said content based on said application information which is received by said first receiving ~~means unit~~; and

accounting ~~means-unit~~ for accounting said use charge which is calculated by said calculating ~~means-unit~~, corresponding to said other device.

6. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
 detecting ~~means-unit~~ for detecting a busy status on said network,
 wherein said format converting ~~means-unit~~ converts said content into data in a predetermined format based on said busy status which is detected by said detecting ~~means-unit~~.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for distributing a content to another device via a network comprising:

a receiving step of receiving from said another device, via said network, application information that identifies an application via which said content can be accessed, content identifying information and format identifying information of said content from said other device via said network;

a reading control step of controlling an operation for reading said content based on content identifying information included in said application information when the application information of said content is received in said receiving step;

a format converting step of converting said content read in said reading control step into data in a predetermined format based on format identifying information included in said application information; and

a distributing step of distributing ~~said content which is converted into the data in the predetermined format in said format converting step,~~ to said device via said network.

8. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program in an information processing system for distributing a content to another device via a network,

wherein said program comprises:

a receiving step of receiving from said another device, via said network, application information that identifies an application via which said content can be accessed, content identifying information, and format identifying information of said content from said other device via said network;

a reading control step of controlling an operation for reading said content based on content identifying information included in said application information when the application information of said content is received in said receiving step;

a format converting step of converting said content read in said reading control step into data in a predetermined format based on said format identifying information included in said application information; and

a distributing step of distributing ~~said content which is converted into the data in the predetermined format in said format converting step,~~ to said device via said network.